

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical socket comprising:
 - a dielectric housing; and
 - a plurality of terminals assembled in the housing and each having a locating plate arranged in rows, each terminal comprising a mating beam connected to the locating plate and extending along the corresponding row; wherein each mating beam has a projection along a direction of the corresponding row of terminals, each two adjacent locating plates define a distance therebetween, and the projection of each mating beam is longer than the distance between each two adjacent locating plates arranged in the same row.
2. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 1, wherein each terminal comprises a bridging portion extending from the locating plate for connecting the mating beam to the locating plate.
3. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mating beam comprises an upper connecting portion oriented above the bridging portion and a lower connecting portion oriented below the bridging portion.
4. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mating beams are parallel to and spaced apart from each other in the same row, and the upper connecting portion of each mating beam extends through and locates above the lower connecting portion of the adjacent mating beam.
5. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 4, wherein each terminal further comprises a mating portion defined on the upper connecting portion of the terminal for contacting with a corresponding electrode of an associated

electronic package.

6. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 5, wherein each terminal further comprises a planar horizontal soldering base at a distal end thereof, for soldering to a circuit pad of a printed circuit board.
7. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 6, wherein the housing defines a plurality of passageways arranged in rows for accommodating the corresponding terminals.
8. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 7, wherein each passageway comprises an upper retention portion and two lower retention portions for retaining the corresponding terminal.
9. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 8, wherein each locating plate of the terminal comprises an upper barb on one side thereof for interferentially engaging with the upper retention portion, and two lower barbs on two opposite sides thereof for interferentially engaging with the two lower retention portions.
10. An electrical socket for electrically connecting an electronic package with a circuit substrate, comprising:
 - an insulative housing defining a plurality of passageways, each two adjacent passageways define a space therebetween; and
 - a plurality of terminals assembled in the corresponding passageways, each terminal having a mating beam for electrically connecting to the electronic package;wherein the mating beam extends through the space between the adjacent passageways and is spaced apart and disposed above the mating beam of

the adjacent terminal.

11. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 10, wherein each terminal comprises a bridging portion extending from the locating plate for connecting the mating beam to the locating plate.
12. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 11, wherein the mating beam comprises an upper connecting portion located above the bridging portion and a lower connecting portion located below the bridging portion.
13. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 12, wherein the mating beams are parallel to each other in the same row, and the upper connecting portion of each mating beam extends through and locates above the lower connecting portion of the adjacent mating beam.
14. An electrical socket for electrically connecting an electronic package with a circuit substrate, comprising:

an insulative base plate having a mating face for engaging with the electronic package, a positioning face for engaging with the circuit substrate, and a plurality of terminal-receiving passageways extending through the base plate from the mating face to the positioning face, and

a plurality of terminals received in the terminal-receiving passageways, each terminal having a locating plate for engaging in the corresponding terminal-receiving passageway, and a mating beam extending from the locating plate of the terminal toward the mating face of the base plate;

wherein each mating beam extends across its own locating plate and further comprises a mating portion locating above the mating plate of another terminal located in an adjacent passageway.

15. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 14, wherein each terminal comprises a bridging portion extending from the locating plate for connecting the mating beam to the locating plate.
16. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the mating beam comprises an upper connecting portion located above the bridging portion and a lower connecting portion located below the bridging portion.
17. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 16, wherein the mating beams are parallel to each other in the same row, and the upper connecting portion of each mating beam is disposed over the lower connecting portion of the adjacent mating beam.
18. An electrical socket comprising:
 - a dielectric housing; and
 - a plurality of terminals assembled in the housing in rows and each having an elongated mating beam extending along a predetermined direction such that the mating beams are parallel to each other; wherein
 - each of the mating beams can deflect from an initial position to a final position; and
 - each two adjacent mating beams in the same row define a first vertical distance therebetween in the initial position, and define a second vertical distance thererbetween in the final position, the second vertical distance being less than the first vertical distance.
19. The electrical socket as claimed in claim 18, wherein each of said mating beams essentially extends away from a corresponding passageway, in which the corresponding terminal is located and retained, in a lateral direction and

substantially invades a space above an adjacent passageway, in which the adjacent terminal is located and retained, and the mating beam of said adjacent terminal is under the mating beam of the corresponding terminal.